

# WLS hit for refusing to air anti-‘Amerika’ views

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Randy Toler drove the 26 miles from Rolling Meadows to Chicago's Loop Sunday, and, with about 20 others, braved Siberian-style wind gusts to continue the struggle.

The struggle, according to Toler and his supporters, is for free speech. They believe WLS-TV is violating free speech by rejecting requests to broadcast views criticizing ABC's showing of "Amerika."

The 14½-hour "mini-series" debuted Sunday night and runs for five more consecutive nights of prime time television before concluding the following Sunday. "Amerika" depicts life in the United States 10 years after a bloodless Russian takeover.

But, to Toler, who helped organize picketing outside WLS-TV studios, "Amerika" is much, much more.

"It portrays peace activists as villains," said Toler, who — dressed in a kelly green sport coat, white shirt, gray pants and color coordinated tie — looked more like a television sports re-

porter than an activist.

"So," he added, "I think it's important that the peace movement speaks up." He explained that, in addition to besmirching the reputation of peace activists everywhere, "Amerika" is "a definite political agenda" aimed at stirring enough anti-communist sentiment among the common man to make burgeoning military spending more palatable.

Inside the studio, where WLS-TV security guard Joe Zarazinski was the only representative willing to offer a response to protesters' request to meet with management, the muffled chants of "feed the people, not the Pentagon" were barely audible.

"The movie?" Zarazinski asked. "I probably won't even watch it. I don't go for stuff like that. My stuff is westerns; Charles Bronson, Clint Eastwood — that kind of stuff. Comedy movies, I go for that, too."

About five Chicago police officers shivered and milled about outside while waiting for the protest to end, which it did at 3:44 p.m., about a half hour after it started. The protest continues today at noon.